**Crimes against women**

†2836. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether crimes like rape, murder, dowry harassment against the women have increased during 2002-2003 in comparison to the previous years;

(b) the names of the States in which maximum murder of such crimes took place and fresh steps being taken to check the crimes against women which are on the increase; and

(c) whether the Government are contemplating to enact a law for the capital punishment for the offence of rape?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) As per available data with the National Crime Records Bureau, rape and dowry death cases declined by 2.1% and 2.4% respectively in 2001 over 2000. However, the cases of cruelty by the husbands and their relatives increased by 7.3% in 2001 over 2000 at the all India level.

(b) and (c) The highest number of rape cases during 2000 and 2001 were reported from Madhya Pradesh and the highest number of dowry death cases during these years were reported from Uttar Pradesh. The highest number of cases of cruelty by husbands and their relatives were reported from Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh during 2000 and 2001 respectively.

Comprehensive changes in the law to protect women from sexual abuse are receiving the attention of Justice Malimath Committee on criminal justice reforms. However, there is no proposal to provide for capital punishment for rape under consideration of the Government at the moment.

**Arrangements made to tackle natural calamities**

†2837. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any comprehensive arrangements have been made by Government to tackle the natural calamity in the country;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (c) The Government has taken a number of initiatives to strengthen the capability for management of natural calamities in the country. These initiatives include development of disaster management framework, creation/upgradation of institutional structures at National and State levels for basic and specialized training in disaster management, training and equipping of specialized search and rescue teams for rapid intervention, building up basic capabilities for disaster response in all Central Para Military Forces (CPMFs), assisting the State Governments in the development of community based initiatives for disaster management in multi-hazard prone areas, emphasizing the need for adherence to earthquake/cyclone resistance features in construction of buildings, generating awareness and skills for disaster management by inclusion of relevant information in the curricula for school children and engineering students.

**Request for increasing more funds by Maharashtra**

2838. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Maharashtra Government has sought substantial increase in the Central funds for modernisation of police force in the State;

(b) if so, when these funds would be released to the Maharashtra Government; and

(c) whether Central Government are thinking of any general guidelines for modernisation of State police forces all over the country to adequately meet the challenges posed by changing profile of criminal elements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Maharashtra Government along with certain other State Governments have sought change in the funding pattern of the Modernisation of Police Force Scheme.